*SLO III. Developmental Context*

*Students will demonstrate knowledge of the multiple environmental contexts in which children grow and develop, and will be able to analyze systems that support children’s well-being.*

I first learned about environment development when I learned about The Bronfenbrenner’s Ecological System Theory under the exosystem. The exosystem contains environmental fundamentals that have had an influence on a child’s development, although the child is not directly involved with them. Environmental context provides children to experience and see the world around them through their eyes, since they are born. A newborn requires a safe, secure environment in order to survive. They need a clean place to sleep, food to eat, and attachment from a caregiver. I believe that the environment around a child affects the way that the child grows up to be.

I think that social economic status is linked between environmental context and children’s development. Depending on the type of social class a child is born into, environment conditions can be well or very bad conditions. For example, I grew up in a working social class, and we lived in East Palo Alto (Bay Area). Growing up in one of the most dangerous cities at the time has taught me to grow some thick skin. Because I was in an environment where you always had to be careful and have a strong personality has shaped me into who I am today. My strong personality has helped me block off other people’s negativity and I have never let anyone tell me that I couldn’t accomplish something, and if they do I have done everything I can to prove him or her wrong.

I believe that the environment that a child experiences is going to shape him/her into how they will grow up to be. Some examples of environmental contexts are education, peers, culture, and community. For example culture plays a huge role as to how children grow and develop. Culture can be anything from attitudes, values, behavior shared by a group of people. Culture is usually passed down from generation to generation. Since the culture is learned through generations there are certain things that children learn and adapt to differently within cultures. For example, religion is one of the biggest factors of culture. There are several religions within cultures and each religion believes in a different kind of god. Children are being exposed to certain beliefs and systems as they develop by older members in their family or community.

Something that most surprises me about environmental context is that what a child sees and is used to, is likely the way that you will be when you grow older. I t also surprises me that most parents show similar characteristics and behaviors that their parents might have been to them as a child. As well as, how researchers predict that people tend to seek similar personalities, characteristics, or physical appearance as their parents. The importance of modeling is mentioned in mostly every child development course. Modeling is an effective teaching technique by the caregiver modeling a particular behavior that you want the child to perform. I think because of modeling, when children grow older and have their own children they exhibit similar characteristics or do the same thing that used to be done to them as child to their own child.

Environmental development is an important development for children because it every child experiences a different world in different environments. I believe that the environment can reflect on how a child will grow up to be. If a child lives in a bad environment, the parents should consider making their home a safe and secure environment in their home and not let the negativity of the streets influence the child.